

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CU-04 HEW-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 AID-20

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O P 021200Z FEB 74 ZDK
FM AMCONSUL IBADAN
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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1655
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: UNIBADAN VIOLENCE

REF: IBADAN 0052 AND 0051

1. MORNING AFTER REPORTS REVEAL SERIOUS CLASH BETWEEN POLICE AND STUDENTS YESTERDAY, BUT NOT SO SERIOUS AS FIRST REPORTS INDICATED. POLICE TELL US TEAR GAS, DOGS, AND TRUNCHEONS USED AGAINST STUDENTS. BUT NOT BULLETS; FIVE STUDENTS HOSPITALIZED WITH INJURIES VARYING FROM LIGHT TO "FAIRLY SERIOUS"; ONE STUDENT "BADLY HURT" BY TEAR GAS CANISTER; NINE STUDENTS UNDER ARREST AND PRESENTLY BEING SCREENED IN CONNECTION WITH INCITING BREACH OF PEACE AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, INCLUDING POLICE COMMISSIONER'S CAR, AT SCENE OF CONFRONTATION; ALL IS NOW QUIET THROUGH CITY AND CAMPUS; AND STUDENTS BEING ALLOWED TO RETURN TO CAMPUS. POLICE ALSO ASSURE NO AMCITS KNOWN AMONG DEMONSTRATORS OR AMONG THOSE ARRESTED OR INJURED.

2. PRESS AND ONE EYE-WITNESS REPORTS BY NO MEANS UNANIMOUS BUT INDICATE CONFRONTATION TOOK PLACE IN OKE-ADO DISTRICT OF
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IBADAN AFTER STUDENTS HALTED CHARTERED BUSES CONVEYING THEM FROM

UNIVERSITY TO CEMETERY, DISMOUNTED, AND BEGAN MARCHING AND CHANTING TOWARD CEMETARY. LEADERS OF PROCESSION ATTEMPTED IGNORE POLICE BLOCKADE, TEAR GAS FIRED BY POLICE, STUDENTS RETALIATED WITH STONES, DAMAGING POLICE AND OTHER VEHICLES, AND POLICE CHARGED WITH TRUNCHEONS AND DOGS. STUDENTS SCATTERED, BEING CHASED AND ARRESTED BY POLICE THROUGH MARKET STALLS AND SURROUNDING DWELLINGS. ONE PERSON AMONG INJURED, BUT NOT APPARENTLY SERIOUSLY, WAS TUNJI ADEPEJU - BROTHER OF STUDENT KILLED IN 1971 DISTURBANCE WHO WAS BEING MOURNED BY DEMONSTRATORS.

3. CAMPUS APPEARS NEARLY NORMAL FOR SATURDAY. GATES OPEN, ALL FACILITIES FUNCTIONING, AT LEAST SOME LECTURES BEING HELD, AND NO POLICE IN EVIDENCE, FACULTY ADVISOR TO BLACK NATIONALIST MOVEMENT TOLD CONOFF HE DOES NOT EXPECT FURTHER TROUBLE BECAUSE "PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF BEING SHOT". HE MAINTAINS ONE STUDENT "DEFINITELY" WAS SHOT, AND IS NOW AT UCH, BUT WILL RECOVER. POLICE ATTEMPTING COVER UP FACT THAT BULLETS WERE USED. CAMPUS RUMOR IS THAT ONE PROFESSOR BEATEN OR SHOT BY POLICE WHILE ATTEMPTING ENTER CAMPUS LAST NIGHT AND IS NOW IN UCH IN SERIOUS CONDITION UNDERGOING OPERATION.

4. CONSENSUS FACULTY WITH WHOM CONOFF TALKED, WHICH INCLUDED REPUTED RADICALS, IS THAT STUDENTS GUILTY VIOLATING UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION AND POLICE ATTEMPTS MEET THEM HALF WAY IN ORGANIZING PEACEFUL MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE. VICE CHANCELLOR PUBLISHED NOTICE OCTOBER 31 OUTLINING WHAT POLICE WOULD AND WOULD NOT PERMIT, WHICH SPECIFICALLY BANNED MARCH BUT PERMITTED BUSSING TO CEMETERY AND BACK TO CAMPUS. VC ALSO SAID HE HAD AGREEMENT BY STUDENT UNION EXECUTIVE THAT STUDENTS WOULD ABIDE BY POLICE "ADVICE".

5. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT LIKELY HINGE ON WHETHER INJURED DEMONSTRATORS RECOVER AND POLICE DECISION WHETHER TO CHARGE AND TRY THOSE ARRESTED. SITUATION ON CAMPUS WILL REMAIN VOLATILE OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS, BUT POLICE HAVE PROVED AGAIN THEY CAN AND WILL CONTAIN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE ALSO THAT ALLIES OF STUDENTS IN 1971 DISTURBANCES (ACTION GROUP, MARKET WOMEN, TRADE UNIONISTS) AND NON-COMMITTAL OR EQUIVOCAL ABOUT CURRENT STUDENT CAUSES - POSSIBLY BECAUSE PUBLICIZED CAUSES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BECOME MORE IDEOLOGICAL (BLACK AND NIGERIAN NATIONALISM, MARXISM) AND LESS APPEALING THAN PREVIOUS CHARGES OF BAD UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT, BAD FOOD AND CORRUPTION AMONG TEACHERS, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF. IT APPEARS TENTATIVELY THAT STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS LACK BACKING OF FACULTY AND OFF-CAMPUS GROUPS WHO SUPPORTED THEM IN 1971.

6. NIGERIAN HERALD REPORTS TENSE BUT RELATIVELY NON-VIOLENT

CONFRONTATION BETWEEN POLICE AND STUDENTS AT KWARA COLLEGE OF
TECHNOLOGY DURING ADEPEJU MEMORIAL DEMONSTRATIONS YESTERDAY.
POLICE APPARENTLY CONFINED DEMONSTRATORS TO CAMPUS WITH MINIMAL
HEAD-BASHING, AND DEMONSTRATORS MARCHED AROUND CAMPUS WITH
PLACARDS BUT DID NOT DAMAGE PROPERTY OR ASSAULT INDIVIDUALS.
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